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(21) Application number: **60043003**(22) Date of filing: **05.03.85**(71) Applicant: **KAWASAKI KASEI CHEM LTD**

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(54) PRODUCTION OF SUCCINIC ACID**(57) Abstract:**

PURPOSE: In obtaining succinic acid by hydrogenating maleic anhydride or maleic acid in an aqueous medium in the presence of a noble metallic catalyst, to prevent deactivation of the catalyst and to reuse it, by pretreating maleic anhydride or maleic acid of raw material with a cation exchange resin.

CONSTITUTION: In obtaining succinic acid by hydrogenating maleic anhydride or maleic acid by the use of a noble metallic catalyst, maleic anhydride or maleic acid of raw material is pretreated with a cation

exchange resin (preferably strongly acidic cation exchange resin) (treatment with cation exchange resin in a molten state at a temperature in a range of = the melting point anhydride W= the heat-resistant temperature of cation exchange resin, or treatment of aqueous solution of maleic acid with cation exchange resin), maleic anhydride or maleic acid is hydrogenated, and a mother liquor (preferably circulating mother liquor is treated with cation exchange resin) from which crystallized succinic acid is removed is circulated as an aqueous medium.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The inventors have found that the deactivation of the noble metallic catalysts is caused by poisoning of impurities contained in the starting maleic anhydride or maleic acid and the deactivation of the catalysts can be prevented by removing the impurities.

The impurities may be copper compounds and the like.

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